

# Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

## Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE HOUSE FWP COMMITTEE:

**RE: HB 418**-AN ACT REVISING THE RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES AND PERMITS THAT MAY BE ISSUED TO NONRESIDENTS

**POSITION:** Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **ADAMANTLY**  
**OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- In 2012, under the current 10% allocation to nonresidents, plus the other programs available to nonresidents, Montana issued 17,675 non-resident elk tags and 24,215 deer tags. Of the Western states, only Colorado issued more non-resident elk tags and only Wyoming issued more non-resident deer tags. See attached sheet.
- For the last two years, every non-resident who applied for a Big Game combination license, was drawn.
- Only Montana offers the non-resident hunter who draws a tag, the opportunity to hunt for 11 weeks, assuming they both archery and rifle hunt. Most states only provide a 5-10 day opportunity.
- With regards to non-resident archery tags in the "Breaks" and 21 adjacent units, non-residents in 2012 had a 32% chance of drawing a tag in the "Breaks" and a 55% chance of drawing in the adjacent units. See attached sheet.
- If the rationale is used that the additional tags are needed because elk populations are over objectives then the proper tool to reduce populations is to increase cow harvest, not bull harvest, and with rifles.
- The economic impact is being misstated and does not account for loss of revenue from resident hunters. See attached sheet.

Once again we would like to state our **ADAMANT OPPOSITION** for HB 418

### Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

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	NONRESIDENT	NR COLLEGE STUDENT BIG GAME COMBO	393	\$70
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	34	\$939
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	10,440	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - BIG GAME COMBO	41	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - BIG GAME COMBO	1,732	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - BIG GAME COMBO	5	\$939
	NONRESIDENT	YOUTH BIG GAME COMBO	388	\$470
			<b>13,033</b>	

	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	430	\$789
	NONRESIDENT	NR NATIVE GENERAL ELK	1,001	\$80
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	1	\$789
B-10	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - ELK COMBO	2,052	\$789
			<b>3,484</b>	

B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	120	\$273
	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	140	\$273
B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	308	\$273
B-12	NONRESIDENT	ELK B LICENSE	590	\$273
			<b>1,158</b>	

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B-11	NONRESIDENT	LANDOWNER SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	7	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	LANDOWNER SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	1,463	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	1,482	\$556
B-11	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	2	\$556
B-11	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	4,849	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	FAMILY SPONSOR - DEER COMBO	41	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	NR NATIVE GENERAL DEER	1,171	\$64
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL - DEER COMBO	76	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER LICENSE	8	\$125
			<b>9,099</b>	

	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER COMBO (RETAINED HB 607)	4	\$556
	NONRESIDENT	GENERAL DEER COMBO (RETAINED HB 607)	2,079	\$556
			<b>2,083</b>	

<b>Elk and Deer Combo licenses sold</b>	<b>13,033</b>
<b>Elk only licesnes sold</b>	<b>3,484</b>
<b>Elk B licenses sold</b>	<b>1,158</b>

<b>Deer (buck) license Sold</b>	<b>9,099</b>
<b>Deer license retained under HB 607</b>	<b>2,083</b>

<b>Total NR Licensed to Hunt</b>	<b>28,857</b>
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Note many of the Elk b license holder  
may also hold a NR combinaiton license

2011 Elk Archery Permit Numbers, Breaks												
Resident				Nonresident								
		Applications		Successful				Applications		Successful		
Quota	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	
410-15	1,800	1,469	664	167	1,465	159	0	517	130	69	176	0
620-15	1,260	1,175	240	80	1,138	0	0	461	110	52	122	0
798-15	600	254	320	84	252	288	0	192	137	55	60	0
Totals	3,660	2,898	1,224	331	2,855	447	0	1,170	377	176	358	0
2011 Elk Archery Permit Numbers, Outside Breaks												
Resident				Nonresident								
		Applications		Successful				Applications		Successful		
Quota	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	
401-15	170	81	127	46	81	76	0	12	2	1	12	0
411-15	800	455	361	79	455	266	0	199	79	12	79	0
420-15	775	252	580	110	252	450	0	73	50	26	73	0
500-15	135	50	86	26	50	76	0	4	9	4	5	0
502-15	125	65	69	23	65	52	0	6	2	0	6	0
580-15	115	43	58	16	43	57	0	28	6	3	15	0
590-15	385	172	165	47	172	165	10	126	15	3	38	0
799-15	785	284	430	55	283	424	0	168	73	36	78	0
Totals	3,290	1,402	1,876	402	1,401	1,566	10	616	236	85	305	0

Resident		Nonresident			
% 1st	% 2nd	% 1st	% 2nd		
99.73%	23.95%	34.04%	0.00%		
96.85%	0.00%	26.46%	0.00%		
99.21%	90.00%	31.25%	0.00%		
98.52%	36.52%	30.60%	0.00%		
Resident		Nonresident			
% 1st	% 2nd	% 1st	% 2nd		
100.00%	59.84%	100.00%	50.00%		
100.00%	73.68%	39.70%	0.00%		
100.00%	77.59%	100.00%	0.00%		
100.00%	88.37%	100.00%	55.56%		
100.00%	75.36%	100.00%	100.00%		
100.00%	98.28%	53.57%	0.00%		
100.00%	100.00%	30.16%	0.00%		
99.65%	98.60%	46.43%	0.00%		
99.93%	83.48%	49.51%	3.39%		

2012 Elk Archery Permit Numbers, Breaks												
Resident				Nonresident								
		Applications		Successful				Applications		Successful		
Quota	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	
410-15	1,900	1,750	711	154	1,715	0	0	500	151	35	185	0
620-15	1,400	1,080	273	132	1,075	186	0	481	84	28	139	0
798-15	705	303	429	80	303	332	0	219	67	41	70	0
Totals	4,005	3,133	1,413	366	3,093	518	0	1,200	302	104	394	0
2012 Elk Archery Permit Numbers, Outside Breaks												
Resident				Nonresident								
		Applications		Successful				Applications		Successful		
Quota	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	3RD	1ST	2ND	
401-15	350	113	157		113	157		49	42	48	32	
411-15	900	566	432		566	245		180	60	89		
420-15	680	282	664		282	334		101	51	64		
500-15	180	51	104		51	104		16	10	16	7	
502-15	150	63	89		63	77		4	6	4	6	
580-15	130	62	116		62	55		26	7	13		
590-15	450	191	231		191	214		111	14	45		
799-15	860	287	497		287	487		166	59	86		
Totals	3,700	1,615	2,290	0	1,615	1,673	0	653	249	0	45	0

Resident		Nonresident			
% 1st	% 2nd	% 1st	% 2nd		
98.00%	0.00%	37.00%	0.00%		
99.54%	68.13%	28.90%	0.00%		
100.00%	77.39%	31.96%	0.00%		
98.72%	36.66%	32.83%	0.00%		
Resident		Nonresident			
% 1st	% 2nd	% 1st	% 2nd		
100.00%	100.00%	97.96%	76.19%		
100.00%	56.71%	49.44%	0.00%		
100.00%	50.30%	63.37%	0.00%		
100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	70.00%		
100.00%	86.52%	100.00%	100.00%		
100.00%	47.41%	50.00%	0.00%		
100.00%	92.64%	40.54%	0.00%		
100.00%	97.99%	51.81%	0.00%		
100.00%	73.06%	55.90%	18.07%		

\* Resident first choice success not 100% only due to residents applying as a party with nonresidents.

## DIFFERENT SCENARIOS OF ECONOMIC IMPACT OF NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS

THESE SCENARIOS PERTAIN TO NON-RESIDENT ELK HUNTERS ONLY.

Scenario #1-Non-resident hunter hunting with an outfitter:

Generally speaking, in this scenario, the outfitter provides the lodging, meals and transportation (once they have arrived at the outfitters headquarters) for the client. The only expenses the client will usually incur in Montana would be any gas within the state and perhaps miscellaneous small purchases. While the outfitter will be providing the food, being good business people, those supplies are likely to be bought at the closest Costco or Wal-Mart, not the small local stores.

Scenario #2-Non-resident hunter hunting without an outfitter on public land.

Where most people elk hunt is a fair distance from a city, and usually requires a long walk or horse ride to reach where the elk actually are. Therefore, most elk hunters choose to camp fairly close to their desired hunting area. Usually, they bring their own camps with them, whether they are trailers, wall tents, etc. and thus are not staying in local motels. They also usually bring their food supplies with them and do marginal shopping in local markets. So once again their spending in local communities is limited and usually the bulk of it would be gas while they are in Montana.

Scenario #3-Non-resident hunters who lease land to hunt on.

This is a very small percentage of the total number of non-residents who hunt in Montana. Depending on the land leased, they may be provided a cabin to stay in or a place to camp on the ranch or they may stay at the closest motel. Again, the circumstances will determine whether they bring their own food or eat at local restaurants.

In all three of the above scenarios, it would not be uncommon for the non-resident hunter to go into town for an occasional meal or perhaps a room for a night.

Contrast the above scenarios to what happens when Montana hunters stop going to an area to hunt due to over-crowding or lack of access. While we may too bring our own food and lodging, they were bought in Montana. We also pay for our own means of transportation and gas which again has been bought in Montana. How about all the scouting trips that Montana residents take to the various hunting areas where we buy gas, supplies, etc.? We have been told by business owners in small towns that their businesses have suffered greatly because Montanans no longer come to their areas to hunt. THESE DOLLARS ARE NEVER SUBTRACTED OUT OF THE ALLEGED INCOME PRODUCED BY NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS.